



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**For Immediate Release**

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**JURY FINDS THAT F. LEE BAILEY SHOULD PAY UNITED STATES \$3 MILLION  
FOR DISREGARD OF THE GOVERNMENT'S RIGHT TO \$2 MILLION**

A jury in United States District Court in Orlando today found that F. Lee Bailey was liable to the United States for punitive damages in the amount of \$3 million as a consequence of his wanton disregard of the right of the United States to a \$2 million fund which was at issue in the case.

Evidence at the trial established that the \$2 million at issue was money that was found by law enforcement authorities in a bank account in the Caymen Islands during the investigation of William and Chantal McCorkle and others for mail and wire fraud and money laundering. The McCorkles and others operated a telemarketing business in which they sold instructional videotapes and materials dealing with the purchase of distressed properties and real estate foreclosures. In 1998 a jury in Orlando found the McCorkles guilty of mail and wire fraud and money laundering in the operation of that telemarketing business.

The United States claimed that the \$2 million was proceeds of the crime and therefore forfeitable to the government and should be available to victims of the crime and for educational and law enforcement purposes. During the time that the United States was proceeding against the money, Bailey caused the money to be set up in a separate account in the Caymen Islands to pay attorney fees and legal expenses.

The jury in the criminal prosecution in 1998 found that the \$2 million should be forfeited to the United States government. Earlier this year, the United States District Court in Orlando determined that Mr. Bailey is liable to the United States for \$2 million because he had disbursed moneys from that account. In this trial, the jury found that Mr. Bailey's use of that \$2 million amounted to wanton disregard of the United States' right to the money and therefore it was entitled to \$3 million in punitive damages. The jury also determined his actions amounted to civil theft, which could result in a judgment of \$6 million.

United States Attorney Paul I. Perez said, "We will continue to aggressively pursue the forfeiture of criminal proceeds and return those proceeds to the victims of the crime."

The case was tried by Ralph Lee, an Assistant United States Attorney assigned to the Jacksonville Division.